

SC AHEC

Fostering Seamless Transitions While Improving End-of-Life Care

Bennie Pettit, CE Coordinator, Upstate AHEC &
Janet Craig, DHA, Clemson University

Professionals interested in improving the end-of-life experience for patients and families have formed the Upstate South Carolina End of Life Educational Collaborative. The aim of this Collaborative is to raise awareness and stimulate professionals "to think globally and act locally" to improve end-of-life care for seniors in upstate South Carolina. The group works toward its goal by hosting a series of three multi-institutional, interdisciplinary communication and knowledge building conferences featuring nationally recognized experts. Since the formation of the Upstate End-of-Life Educational Collaborative in March of 2004, partners have grown to 36 in number and now represent all major health care organizations and settings in the upstate as well as university and technical programs preparing health professionals.

Over 135 participants attended the first in the series of three conferences, held at the University Center of Greenville on November 10, 2004. Dr. Daniel Tobin, author of *Peaceful Dying*, was the featured speaker. Dr. Tobin is the Director of The Life Institute/ VA Healthcare Network of Upstate New York and The Center for Advanced Illness Coordinated Care. Eighty Greenville Technical College nursing students and faculty attended the pre-conference educational session.

The second conference, *Peaceful Dying: Addressing Signs and Symptoms*, will be

held at the University Center of Greenville on March 9, 2005. The keynote speaker for this conference will be Martha L. Henderson, MSN, MDiv, DMin. Dr. Henderson is a retired faculty member in the UNC School of Nursing and Medicine and the Program on Aging. She is coauthor of *Improving Nursing Home Care of the Dying: A Training Manual for Nursing Home Care* with Laura Hanson and Kimberly Reynolds.

The third conference, *Peaceful Dying: Understanding the Special Needs and Communication of the Dying*, is planned for June 15, 2005. Margaret E. Callanan, RN, CRNH, is the featured speaker for this conference. Ms. Callanan, a Hospice

nurse, writer and speaker, is the author of *Final Gifts, Understanding the Special Awareness, Needs, and Communications of the Dying*.

The aim of this Collaborative is to raise awareness and stimulate professionals "to think globally and act locally" to improve end-of-life care for seniors in upstate South Carolina.

Through the use of information and distance technology we hope to connect participants over the life of the project, build communities of practice, develop a common vision and goal, motivate sharing of needs and 'best practices', and develop projects that result in improved outcomes for patients and their caregivers.

More information about this conference series can be obtained by calling Upstate AHEC at 864-349-1160.

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Spring
2005

**SOUTH
CAROLINA AHEC**
Excellence In Health Care Through Education



Lowcountry AHEC Hosts SCRIPT Leadership Retreat

Diane Kennedy, Lowcountry AHEC Director and SCRIPT Project Director &
Mary Cabaniss, HPS Coordinator, Lowcountry AHEC

Lowcountry AHEC held its annual South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training (SCRIPT) Leadership Retreat on January 14 and 15, 2005 on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The 49 participants traveled from around the state to share their success stories and prepare for the 2005 SCRIPT sessions.

SCRIPT is sponsored by Lowcountry AHEC, in collaboration with Mid-Carolina, Pee Dee, and Upstate AHECs. SCRIPT is in its 12th year and seeks to develop culturally sensitive health professionals who can work within interdisciplinary teams to deliver care in rural areas. Each year more than 80 health professions students from 13 disciplines and 6 South Carolina universities participate in the summer sessions across the SC AHEC regions. Each January a retreat is held to bring SCRIPT collaborators from around the state together to learn more about SCRIPT and acquire skills to take back to their region.

Participants included SCRIPT preceptors, community liaisons, AHEC board members, SCRIPT team members, SCRIPT graduates, and faculty from five South Carolina universities. The retreat was facilitated by Dr. Amy Brock-Martin who is the Deputy Director and Assistant Professor of the South Carolina Rural Health Research Center at the University of South Carolina.

The 2005 Leadership Retreat began with its traditional Friday evening "Get Together." Participants and their guests enjoyed refreshments and time together to reconnect with collaborators and meet new partners. Following this reception, Dr. Martin opened the retreat with an ice-breaker to prepare the group for Saturday's activities.

Saturday opened with a session entitled "What is SCRIPT and Where are We Now?" Any given year,

retreat participants are made up of new and "repeat retreaters." This year over half of the participants had attended a retreat. During this session the SCRIPT team communicates what the program is, its history, and why it is such a success. In addition, two SCRIPT graduates, Bryan Amick a Pharmacy student at USC and Hiatt Taylor a Physician Assistant graduate from MUSC, shared their experiences with the attendees.



"SCRIPT Building" activity used blocks that represented the program's attributes to demonstrate successful partnership building.

Subsequent retreat activities included a session on the "Fundamentals of Precepting" and small group breakouts to determine SCRIPT roles of faculty, board members, community liaisons, Health Professions Student Coordinators, and preceptors. Information was gathered on these roles and a "SCRIPT Building" was created by participants to show how the

partnerships build success.

In the afternoon, participants heard from community liaisons from the Lowcountry and Upstate sessions who shared what their community health projects were, how the students made a difference, and what the next steps were for students in 2005. The final portion of the retreat permitted participants to divide into small, regional groups to discuss community health issues in their local areas. Ideas for SCRIPT 2005 community-focused health promotion projects were determined and many groups plan to use them in their regional sessions this coming summer.

For more information about SCRIPT 2005, contact Lowcountry AHEC at 803-943-5052.

Health Professions Student Coordinators Track Former Students

Laurie Patenaude, HPS Coordinator, Mid-Carolina AHEC

South Carolina AHECs Health Professions Student (HPS) Coordinators recognize the need to monitor the impact of their work with students. One method of doing this is to track former health professions students who have benefited from AHEC services. With this in mind, the HPS Coordinators decided to establish the practice location of 43 physician assistants (PA's) who graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina.

The decision was made to track the graduating class of 2003 because this was the most recent cohort of PA's for which employment was likely to have been established. The HPS coordinators relied on a variety of resources to identify the current employment location of the 43 graduates including communication with graduates, information available from state medical boards, and follow up contact with graduates by survey and phone calls.

The result was that employment location was verified for 42 of the 43 graduates (98%). Most exciting was the discovery that 35 of the 43 graduates (81%) are currently practicing in South Carolina. Employment location by state is as follows:

State	# Graduates
South Carolina	35
Florida	4
Alabama	1
North Carolina	1
Not currently working as a PA	1
Not located	1

The results of this project were shared with the faculty of the physician assistant program at MUSC. Physician Assistant Program Director Paul F. Jacques, EdM, PA-C, was appreciative of the work done and stated, "This information is very useful. It gladdens the heart to see that we are impacting the health care delivery system of South Carolina."

Extensive AHEC services are provided to MUSC PA students throughout the state in the form of clinical site development, student orientation to the community, site visits, housing, computer and internet access, and educational resources. Because of the number of clinical rotations required by the program (nine), the coordinators often provide support services for students for multiple rotations.

For more information about Health Professions Student programs, contact Laurie Patenaude at 803-286-4121.

2004 Site of the Year Provides Lesson in Kindness

Lowrys Family Medicine in Chester, South Carolina has been selected as the South Carolina AHEC Clinical Teaching Site of the Year for 2004. The site is selected based on the following criteria: being an active interdisciplinary clinical teaching site, positive feedback on evaluations completed by students, and letters of nomination from a HPS Coordinator and a student. As a rural practice providing care in the areas of family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics, Lowrys Family Medicine is perfectly aligned with the SC AHECs mission and focus on primary care.

Lowrys Family Medicine is one of the most active clinical training sites in the Mid-Carolina region. It is not unusual for them to accept two or even three students at one time. During the 2004 calendar

year, there were 17 students hosted by Lowrys that totaled 103 weeks of clinical training. Their dedication to student clinical education and support of students rotating through their practice is the reason they are recognized as Site of the Year.

This year the review committee was impressed by the excellent evaluations completed on behalf of all those at Lowrys Family Medicine. As one student said, "...it was the kindness and compassion with which clinicians and staff served patients that had the largest impact on me... Working at Lowrys for my short two months allowed me to catch a glimpse at the impact that a medical practice can have on a small town."

Congratulations to Lowrys Family Medicine, the 2004 Site of the Year. The formal award will be made at the SC AHEC Annual Meeting awards luncheon on April 5, 2005.

Preparing Health Care Professionals to Work with Older Adults

Bennie Pettit, Continuing Education Consultant &
Missy Jones, Program Assistant, Upstate AHEC

South Carolina's senior citizen population has grown significantly over the last few decades. The state's population of persons aged 60 and over has grown from 286,272 in 1970, to 651,482 in 2000, a 128% increase. This population is projected to increase to over 1.3 million by the year 2025.

The rapid growth in the senior population of South Carolina has heightened the need for trained health care personnel to work with older adults and caregivers. Giving health care professionals the education and skills required for this special population ensures an adequate supply of services for the elderly now and in the future.

In the fall of 2004 Upstate Area Health Education Center offered several continuing education programs to healthcare professionals who work with older adults. In October and November, Upstate AHEC partnered with the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina to offer "Dementia Dialogues: A Basic Course for Caregivers." This five-part program was offered in Greenwood and Edgefield to nursing assistants and those who care for persons exhibiting the signs and symptoms associated with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. Participants who attended all five sessions were awarded a Dementia Specialist Certification.

In November, "Antibiotic Resistant Organisms in Long Term Care" covered several aspects of infectious disease transmission in long term care facilities. This program will be repeated in the Greenwood area on May 3, 2005. Please check the web calendar at www.upstateahec.org for more information.

Additional upcoming programs include, "Communication with Dementia and Alzheimer's Patients and Their Families" which will help long term care professionals sharpen their communication

skills for dealing with Alzheimer's patients and for assisting the patients' families in communicating with their loved ones; "Protecting Our Elders from Mistreatment and Abuse" will enable healthcare professionals to recognize, intervene and report situations of abuse on elderly patients; "Understanding Dementia 2005" will focus on the types, symptoms and treatments of dementia; and "There's No Place Like Home" will train professionals to prepare clients for transition to assisted living or long term care.

On May 19, Upstate AHEC will cosponsor the Upstate South Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association's Annual Conference entitled "Learning to Speak Alzheimer's." Joanne Koenig Coste, author of Learning to Speak Alzheimer's, will be the featured speaker.

Upstate AHEC not only provides aging-centered programs for practicing health care professionals, the organization also offers training for future health care professionals. Student Development and Diversity Program Coordinator Selena Henderson uses a program entitled, "Walk a Mile in My Old Shoes" to educate junior high and high school students about the aging process. The program is adaptable to each school's needs and can include a combination of lecture, special speakers and hands-on learning. The program enables participants to "experience" some of the challenges that accompany aging. The "Walk a Mile" program is also being adapted for use as an age-sensitivity program for medical office personnel for the Carolina Health Center at the Greenwood Genetic Center in Greenwood, South Carolina.

For more information contact Upstate AHEC at 864-349-1160 or www.upstateahec.org.

Gordon Stine, DMD, Awarded Highest Honor

Dr. Gordon Stine, retired SC AHEC Statewide Dental Coordinator, was awarded the Founders Medal by the College of Charleston on February 11, 2005. The Founders' Medal is the most prestigious award given by the College. The award is given only to those who have achieved distinction in the fields of

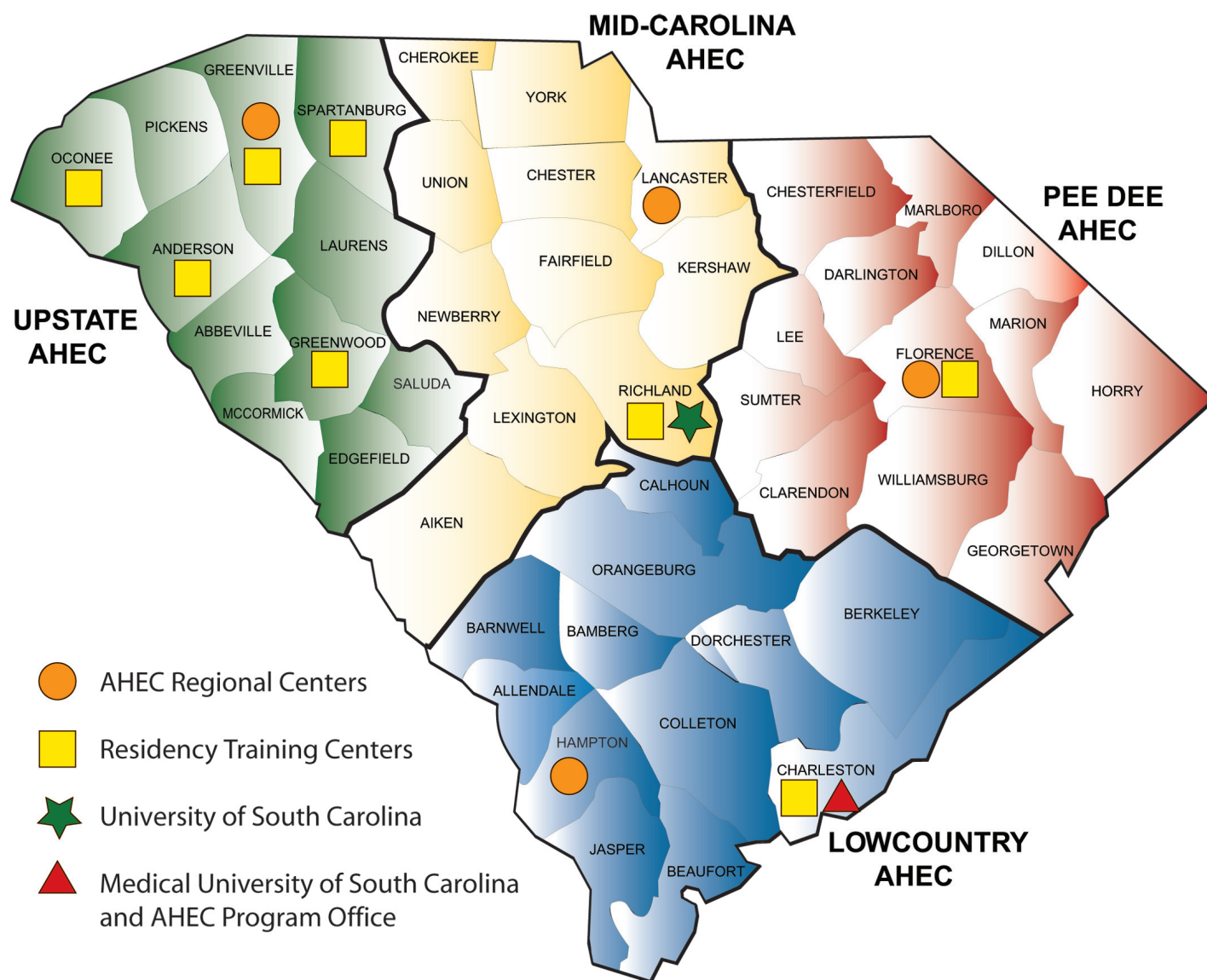
education, science, government, business, and the arts, or through exemplary accomplishments as leaders and outstanding citizens of the community. SC AHEC congratulates Dr. Stine on his achievement.

South Carolina AHEC System

The South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (SC AHEC) exists to help improve the health of South Carolina's citizens. Established in 1972, we are the only organization in South Carolina that addresses health care workforce needs starting at the level of primary and secondary school education and extending to practicing health care professionals throughout the state. The success of the SC AHEC is due to the excellent partnerships that have been built with South Carolina's colleges, universities, teaching hospitals and communities.

Services Provided Include:

- Continuing Education for Health Care Professionals
- Recruitment & Retention Programs
- Health Professions Student Programs
- Student Development & Diversity Programs
- Graduate Medical Education Residency Training Programs



For additional information about the South Carolina AHEC system, visit our website at www.scahec.net. There you will find links to the four SC AHEC regions, eight residency training programs and numerous program partners. Detailed information about upcoming events and program activities is also available.

The Language of Wellness

Missy Jones, Upstate AHEC

The Hispanic population increased a dramatic 658% in Greenwood County, 541% in Laurens County and 372% in Greenville County between 1990 and 2000. These larger numbers of Spanish-speaking residents have increased the need to have Spanish-trained health care professionals available. Upstate AHEC is helping to bridge the language divide by offering language classes across the region.

Sixteen health care professionals from across the Upstate attended the "Medical Spanish ¿Le Duele? Does It Hurt" class on January 20, 2005 at the Nisbet Education Center in Greenwood, South Carolina.

"Health care professionals have noticed a significant increase in the number of Hispanic patients in their offices and hospitals and they have expressed a desire to be able to communicate more effectively with them," said Ann Griffith, Continuing Education Consultant for Upstate AHEC.

"This class is like a Spanish crash course for healthcare professionals who need to know the basics of communicating with their Hispanic patients. They will learn critical communication skills to facilitate scheduling medical appointments, taking medical histories and triage, and effectively and safely planning patient discharges. The hope is that participants learn enough during this program to facilitate safe healthcare services for our Hispanic population and to spark an interest for continued learning of the Spanish language."



Matt Lowery uses familiar objects to teach language skills.

Matt Lowery, Special Services Coordinator for the Carolina Health Center in Greenwood, creatively and enthusiastically instructed a seven-hour class which included Spanish vocabulary and pronunciation, correct written documentation of time and dates, translation of key medical phrases and diagnoses, and a discussion of Hispanic culture and

healthcare beliefs. He taught Spanish words for the anatomy by having each participant attach labels for each body part onto himself. Spanish words for medical supplies and equipment were taught by pulling the items out of a piñata.

Matt explained to the class the necessity of a basic understanding of the Spanish language. "As healthcare providers, we are servants. If we can't communicate with our patients, how can we serve them?"

After experiencing the lively, one-day Medical Spanish course, a participant commented, "Matt is the best Spanish instructor I have ever had. I enjoyed the class very much and learned a lot."

Upstate AHEC will offer "Medical Spanish ¿Le Duele? Does It Hurt" again at Laurens County Healthcare System on April 28, 2005, from 8:30am-5:00pm. For more information, call 864-349-1160 or visit www.upstateahec.org.

AHEC Students Take First Place

Selena Henderson, SDDP Coordinator, Upstate AHEC

Members of the Upstate AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals won first place in the Black Heritage Bowl sponsored by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. on February 5, 2005 at Greenville Technical College.

Omega Psi Phi sponsors this annual event in celebration of Black History Month. Upstate AHEC had 13 students from Northwood Middle School participate in the event this year. Participants are quizzed on historical events, people and places in Black History. Sylvia Blassengale, Northwood Guidance Counselor,

worked with the students for weeks preparing them for this event. The hard work paid off. Mona Badwan, Adrienne Anderson, Zaphane Holland, and Caroline Martin won first place for the district under the name "AHEC Knights".

Upstate AHEC works hard to provide a well rounded experience for all participants and is proud of each of the student's individual accomplishments. For more information on this victory or other Student Development and Diversity Programs, call 864-349-1160.

2004 Preceptor of the Year is One-Man Show

George W. Campbell, M.D. has been selected as the South Carolina AHEC Preceptor of the Year for 2004. The purpose of this award is to bring recognition to an outstanding community-based preceptor serving South Carolina health professions students. Each year practitioners volunteer to provide hours of clinical education to students from various health professions. It is their dedication to the education of the next generation of health professionals that is honored with this award.

This year the committee was impressed by the holistic view of the world Dr. Campbell provides to his students. As one of his students said, "Dr. Campbell is the quintessential person who is able to balance life in order to mold himself into the effective husband father, physician, friend, mentor, leader and businessman." The student also noted how he is always busy yet finds time to enjoy life. Another student said, "This was my best rotation yet!"

Dr. Campbell is the only doctor in a busy family practice in the small town of Westminster, SC; the place where he was born and raised. By seeing patients at Foothills Family Practice and Oconee Memorial Hospital, Dr. Campbell treats approximately 50 patients a day. Despite the high volume of patients, he is committed to sharing his knowledge with the next generation of physicians.

This can be seen in the fact that he precepted nine students last year while continuing to stay on top of the latest clinical research, and serve as a leader in his community.

After a rotation with Dr. Campbell, students take with them experience that not only enriches their clinical skills but also teaches them the true essence of what it means to be a rural family physician. The formal award will be made at the SC AHEC Annual Meeting awards luncheon on April 5, 2005.

Partnerships for Tomorrow's Health Professionals

Angel Clark, Mid-Carolina SDDP Coordinator

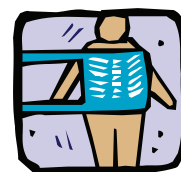
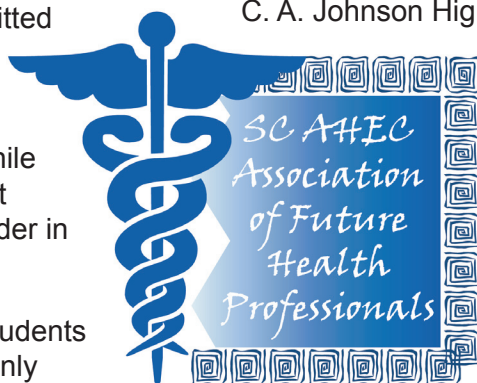
Collaborative efforts can often prove challenging but Mid-Carolina AHEC has found the necessary ingredients for successful collaboration with the C. A. Johnson High School Counseling Department and Palmetto Richland Family Practice. The result is the C. A. Johnson Health, Math & Science Club.

Through this partnership, 20 high school students participate in bimonthly activities. The activities are designed to assist students in the exploration of health professions while demonstrating the daily application of math and science among the professions explored. The goal is to lay a foundation among the students that will encourage an increase in participation and comprehension of the math and science curriculum, and better preparation of students for the rigors required in the health professions training programs.

The program's success is due in part to its collaborators. Through the participation of Dr. Patricia Witherspoon of Palmetto Richland Family Practice, minority residents serve as session facilitators, share their personal stories, and provide information regarding the health disparities prominent within African American communities. Virginia Neil's expertise as a guidance counselor for C. A. Johnson High School gives students a direct link to health career information.

With the help of these two partners, Angel Clark of Mid-Carolina AHEC coordinates the program by pooling the creativity and resources provided by each organization. This is a unique partnership with numerous benefits to the students.

Upcoming events for the C. A. Johnson Health, Math & Science Club include the planning of a spring career fair and completion of CPR certification classes. For more information, call 803-286-4121.



Health Professional Career Profile

Physician Assistants

Physician Assistants provide health care services with the supervision of a physician. They support physicians but should not be confused with medical assistants. Physician assistants are formally trained to provide routine diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive health care services under the direction and supervision of a physician. They take medical histories, examine patients, counsel patients and their families on medical problems, treatments and the use of prescriptions. They order and interpret laboratory tests and x-rays, make diagnoses, and initiate and monitor response to therapy. In most states, they may also prescribe medications.

Areas of Specialization

Physician assistants may have special training in a particular medical specialty once they complete their basic education. All physician assistants are trained in a generalist or primary care role as a foundation of study.

Places of Employment

- Armed Forces • Clinics • Doctors' Offices • Government Health Agencies
- Health Departments • Health Maintenance Organizations • Hospitals
- Student Health Centers

Educational Preparation

In high school, general college preparatory course work is recommended. Admission into physician assistant programs vary, but most programs require at least two years of college and some work experience in the health care field. Students should

take courses in microbiology, English, chemistry, math, psychology and social sciences. Two year programs generally follow two or three years of undergraduate preparation or a bachelor's degree. Four-year programs are combined with a baccalaureate program. All programs include classroom instruction as well as supervised clinical training in several areas. Sometimes physician assistant students serve one or more of these "rotations" under the supervision of a physician who is seeking to hire a physician assistant.

Licensure, Certification and Registration

Graduates of physician assistant programs must pass an examination given by the National Commission for Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Only those successfully completing the examination may use the credential, Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C). In order to remain certified, physician assistants must have 100 hours of continuing education medical education every two years and pass a recertification examination every six years. They must also apply to the medical board for a license to practice in the state.

Educational Programs

- Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston

Professional Organizations

American Academy of Physician Assistants, 950 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-836-2272, www.aapa.org • Association of Physician Assistant Programs, 950 N. Washington Street Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-836-2272, www.apap.org.



Changing Paths Gives Physician Assistant Hampton New Freedoms

Angelica Williams, Director of the SC AHEC Student Development and Diversity Program

In the early 1990s, Angela Hampton, PA, was working in an analytical lab in Orangeburg when she began to hear rumors of a plant closure. Having experienced a previous employment rift, she saw the need to reevaluate her professional path. Angela felt that, "God's timing was preparing me for a change."

As a result, she began to investigate the newly established Physician Assistant (PA) Program offered by the Medical University of South Carolina. The length of the program was a major factor in helping her to select the PA program over medical school, "It fit into my time line so I could finish in less than three years, and I had already met most of the qualifications for application," explains Ms. Hampton.

After quite a bit of research and soul searching, Angela applied and was accepted to the second PA class at MUSC in 1994. As a student, she valued the fact that PA training closely matched the training of medical school students, while allowing her to attain her goal with only a third of the amount of debt traditionally accrued by medical school students.

While enrolled in the PA program, Angela learned about the SCRIPT (South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program in Training) sponsored by Lowcountry AHEC, which allowed

her to do rotations in rural South Carolina communities. She describes her interaction with this program as giving her a deep appreciation for South Carolina.

"Through them, I became exposed to the rich cultural heritage, beliefs and values of the state, which solidified my desire to practice rural medicine." Ms. Hampton also became involved in SC AHEC's Student Development and Diversity Program which provides career exploration opportunities to young people across the state.

Having been in the profession for close to eight

years, Angela enjoys the flexibility it offers, "I like the fact that we (PAs) can easily change specialties," she states. "For instance, I'm in family practice now, but I've toyed with the idea of nephrology or even pediatrics."

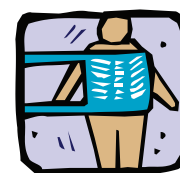
Her recommendation for students considering a career in medicine is to talk with your guidance counselor and your health care provider.

"Let them know your

ambitions. Volunteer and try things like being a candy striper in a hospital to a file clerk in an office. Don't count any experience as too menial, and you'll be amazed at how much knowledge you glean from just being in the medical environment." Angela also encourages perseverance through short-comings and circumstances. "The only one stopping the achievement of your goal is you."



Angela Hampton examines one of her smallest patients at Denmark Medical Center



NeuroBlast!

Welcome to **NeuroBlast!**, a new addition to the newsletter designed to improve the reader's knowledge of health careers and terminology. Each edition will include a new version of **NeuroBlast!**

Test your knowledge and challenge your friends.

When we think of health care providers, we often only envision doctors or nurses, but there are other primary care providers. Test your knowledge of the role Physician Assistants play in a health care setting. Answers can be found at **WWW.SCAHEC.NET**.

1. Physician Assistants can be employed in:

- A. Armed Forces B. Clinics C. Doctor's Offices D. Hospitals E. All of the Above

2. Graduates of physician assistant programs must pass an examination given by the:

- A. Physician Assistant Commission
B. National Commission for Certification of Physician Assistants
C. Professional Association of Physician Assistants
D. Physician Assistants Incorporated
E. Physician Assistants Licensing Board

3. To maintain certification, physician assistants are required to complete 100 hours of continuing education every:

- A. 1 Year B. 2 Years C. 3 Years D. 4 Years E. 5 Years

4. All physician assistants receive basic training in which discipline?

- A. Primary Care B. Nephrology C. Pediatrics D. Geriatrics E. None of the above

5. Physician assistants are the same as medical assistants.

- A. True B. False

6. Physician assistants are required, by law, to apply to the medical board for a license to practice in the state.

- A. True B. False

7. In most states, physician assistants are prohibited from prescribing medications.

- A. True B. False

8. Physician assistants are required to pass a recertification exam every:

- A. 2 Years B. 4 Years C. 6 Years D. Recertification exam not required E. None of the Above

9. After basic education and training, physician assistants can specialize under the supervision of a physician.

- A. True B. False

10. Physician assistants provide health care services with the supervision of a physician.

- A. True B. False

Resource: Health Care Roots for Your Future



School Nurses Benefit from Annual Statewide Conference

Landis Williams, CE Coordinator,
Lowcountry AHEC

The 24th Annual School Nurse Conference gave participants a chance to step away from the hustle and bustle of schools across South Carolina for two days of education, networking and best practices. The conference was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel/Airport Convention Center in North Charleston on October 21-22, 2004.

The Conference began with a rousing call for school nurses to become politically active as advocates for children by SC Representative Joseph H. Neal and ended with ways to maintain a winning pace presented by motivational speaker, Priscilla White. A range of topics pertinent to school health nursing practice rounded out the agenda. Concurrent session topics included assessing abdominal pain, documentation issues, dermatology, looking out for home methamphetamine laboratories, making accommodations for students with allergies, information on the new Nurse Practice Act and managing emergencies.

The Exhibit Hall buzzed with activity throughout the conference as attendees checked out the latest information on school nutrition trends, immunizations, computerized health records, and health resources. The Exhibit Hall also featured booths where many attendees purchased holiday gifts and personal items. The Networking Reception on Thursday evening was sponsored by the South Carolina Managed Care Alliance and thanks to the generosity of exhibitors and other donors a door prize was given every 6 minutes.



The Awards Luncheon was an exciting occasion as several deserving individuals were recognized for exceptional contributions to school health services.

School Health Services Awards

School Nurse (RN) of the Year

Jeanie Davis, RN
Health Services Coordinator
Lee County School District

School Health LPN of the Year

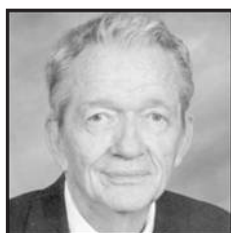
Susan Bennett, LPN
Nurse-School of the Arts
Charleston County School District

The School Nurse (RN) of the Year and the School Health LPN of the Year each received a personal computer donated by Healthmaster. Congratulations to the 2003-2004 Award Winners!

Plans are underway to ensure the silver anniversary of South Carolina's Annual School Nurse Conference is celebrated in a big way. The 25th Annual School Nurse Conference is scheduled for November 17-18, 2005 and will be held again at the Embassy Suites Hotel/Airport Convention Center in North Charleston. Mark your calendars now! For more information, call 803-943-5052 or visit www.lcahec.com.

SC AHEC Mourns the Passing of Former Leader

R. Ramsey Mellette, Jr., M.D., Executive Director of the SC AHEC from 1983-1986, passed away on February 9, 2005 at his residence in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. Dr. Mellette graduated from Clemson University in 1946 and from the Medical College of S.C. (now MUSC) in 1950. He completed his residency in the US Navy. Dr. Mellette was the first board certified child psychiatrist in South Carolina and was certified by the American Board of Psychiatry as a diplomat in General Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry.



Among the many positions he held, Dr. Mellette was past Dean of the Division of Continuing Education, a Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine and Associate Dean of the College of Medicine, MUSC. Dr. Mellette was also an internationally recognized expert in Low Country folk and root medicine. He leaves two sons, two daughters and four grandsons. A memorial service was held on February 11, and the family requested that any memorials be sent to the American Cancer Society or Hospice of Charleston.

Techno Wizards Confront Bioterrorism Threat

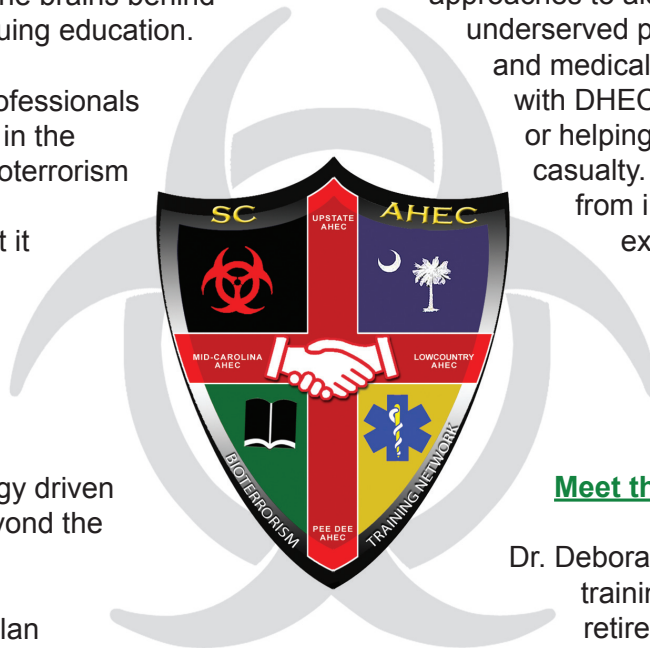
Three members of the Core Team for the highly successful SC AHEC Bioterrorism Awareness Training Network have shown they have what it takes to merge evolving training materials with innovative delivery systems. Drs. Deborah Carson, Mary Mauldin and Frances Wickham Lee are the brains behind this new approach in continuing education.

The Core Team contains professionals with decades of experience in the things you associate with bioterrorism preparedness, like anthrax, smallpox or dirty bombs, but it also contains professionals with a wealth of talent in garnering information from experts in the fields of disaster preparedness and bioterrorism and fashioning it into a technology driven component that can live beyond the current funding period.

Carson, Mauldin, and Lee plan to unveil an exciting on-line course this spring, entitled "Are you ready?". The course places the participant into four scenarios (two infectious disease cases, two mass casualty situations) that are realistic and plausible. Instead of the usual diagnosis and treatment approach to disease or injury, this course focuses on processes,

liabilities, and legalities that will surround public health emergencies.

For example, the course will explore shifts in standards of care during a mass casualty, approaches to aiding undocumented and underserved populations during pandemics, and medical liabilities when volunteering with DHEC during a mass inoculation or helping at the scene of a mass casualty. This course uses excerpts from interviews with authorities and experts across the state, which serves to help the participant recognize those individuals and agencies and their roles in the event of a public health emergency.



Meet the Team

Dr. Deborah Carson, a pharmacist by training, is a Professor Emerita who retired from the MUSC College of Pharmacy in 2002 where she was a tenured professor specializing in Family Medicine and Women's Health. While there she introduced several web-based courses and curricular-based distance education programs for practicing community pharmacists. Dr. Carson often jokes to her pharmacy colleagues

Griffith Shines for Pee Dee AHEC

Kimberly Fine, BT Coordinator, Pee Dee AHEC

Teddy Griffith from Conway, South Carolina shines in the Pee Dee Region for the superior Bioterrorism Preparedness Training he has performed over the past year.

"Teddy was not afraid to step up to the plate and begin our first series of classes which allowed other trainers to come and watch him in action," explains Kimberly Fine,



Teddy Griffith (In Blue) Leads BT Course

Bioterrorism Education Coordinator. "He was the first to implement the use of the Classroom Performance System (CPS) in our area along with using the tool kit in a very creative way."

Teddy also constructed what looks like a pipe bomb to use in his training classes to demonstrate how easy it is to plant a bomb where no one would realize it is present. His talent does not stop there. He created a crossword puzzle for use in classes across the state so that the participants could have something fun to take home and share.

Our hats go off to Teddy Griffith in the Pee Dee Region for a job well done.

that it was her background in Women's Health that allowed her to easily transition into disaster preparedness, but in fact it was her interest in web-based and technology driven adult education combined with clinical experience in an interdisciplinary setting that brought her to the team.

Dr. Mary Mauldin is well known and highly respected throughout MUSC as the Director of the Educational Technology Lab. The Educational Technology Lab is responsible for design and development of computer based instructional programs used by health care professionals not only on the MUSC campus, but throughout the world. Dr. Mauldin's small band of techno-marvels (one video guy, one database guy and a free-lance graphic artist) can make the most daunting technological assignment seem so easy and seamless that every week the Core Team thinks up even more exciting things to explore.

Frances Wickham Lee, DBA, Associate Professor in the Department of Health Administration and Policy, joins the team from the MUSC College of Health Related Professions (CHP). Thanks in part to faculty such as Dr. Lee, CHP surpasses

all other colleges on campus for its ability to reach students throughout South Carolina using web-based distance education technology. For this grant Dr. Lee has brought her distance education and database expertise together to implement the Avilar learning management system, Webmentor. This system not only allows web-based continuing education courses to be published and offered over the Internet, it also incorporates a robust student information database.



*Techno Wizards from Left to Right:
Mary Mauldin, Deborah Carson and Frances
Wickham Lee*

As they enter the second year of funding, the Core Team is focused on 1) enduring the educational material produced as part of the grant, 2) sustaining momentum within the state toward improving awareness of bioterror and emergency preparedness among community health care providers, and 3) strengthening relationships between SC AHEC and other state agencies who are responsible for responding to public health emergencies.

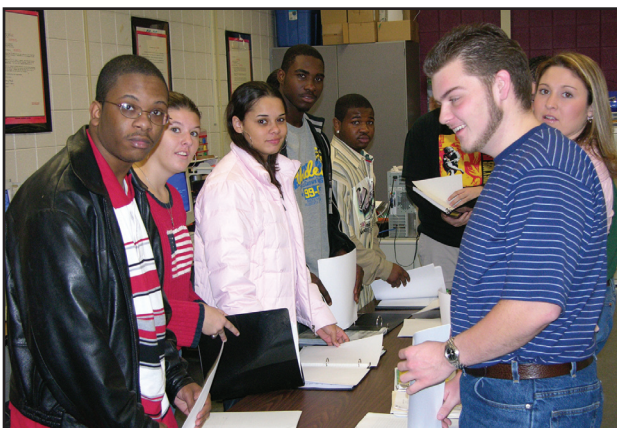
For more information about the excellent work being done by the Bioterrorism Awareness Training Network, log on to www.musc.edu/bioterrorism or call 843-792-4431.

A Special Thanks to East Columbus High School FBLA!

The East Columbus High School Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) compiled 1000 Bioterrorism Preparedness Education Folders and 1500 DVD Notebooks to assist the Pee Dee AHEC with their Bioterrorism Preparedness Education Program.

Kimberly Fine, RN, BSN, BT Coordinator for Pee Dee AHEC, is a former member of FBLA and is a current Professional Member of the East Columbus High School Chapter. East Columbus also invited Ms. Fine to install the new FBLA Officers for the 2004-2005 school year.

SC AHEC extends a huge "thank you" to the hard working members of the East Columbus High School Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America!



*FBLA Members Sort, Stuff and Load Folders and
Notebooks as Part of Chapter Activities.*

Continuing Education Adds Value to Health Professions Student Programs

Julie Ghent, HPS Coordinator, Mid-Carolina AHEC

When Mid-Carolina AHEC set up their Health Professions Student (HPS) program in 1997, they brainstormed ways to make the rotations more attractive to both students and preceptors choosing to participate in this educational experience.

While students are taking part in their clinical rotations, they have the added benefit of attending all Continuing Education (CE) classes during their rotation at no charge. In the past, students have participated in 12-Lead EKG, Wound Care, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) classes. Upon arriving in the Mid-Carolina AHEC region for their rotation, students are given a copy of the CE catalog and are instructed to request permission from their preceptor to be away from the clinic.

PA student Erin Watrobski stated, "The 12-Lead EKG class was of great benefit to me. The instructor broke down the information into an easy to understand format. Her goal was that everyone would leave the class understanding 12 Leads and we did. I appreciated Mid-Carolina providing me the opportunity to attend this class at no cost. The class was very relevant to my education and career."

Laura Zuger, who also attended the class, echoed Erin's sentiment, "The 12 Lead EKG class was a wonderful opportunity. The instructor incorporated

humor and enthusiasm into learning and took the time to clarify and explain the basics before delving into the more complicated readings. As a student on rotation, this class is very applicable to every day clinical decisions and important for board reviews."

Preceptors and their staffs may also attend any CE class at no charge during the academic year they are providing services. Jeannie Rabon's staff at McLeod Women's Services attended one of the Customer Services class. She commented that the class was very good for her staff because it caused them to think about the way patients perceive them and what they say. She also was delighted to have the opportunity to send her staff to quality classes locally.

Additional resources available at no charge to preceptors include: Interdisciplinary Preceptor Development Training and Network of Continuing Medical Education (NCME) tapes from Mid-Carolina AHEC, Bioterrorism Preparedness Training, Library services, including MD Consult, from the SC AHEC Information Service (a cooperative effort between Mid-Carolina AHEC, SC AHEC and the Medical University of South Carolina Library).

Mid-Carolina AHEC takes great pride in offering these services to preceptors and students and delight in knowing both groups have found them to be of benefit to their professional development. Additional information can be found at www.midcarolinaahec.org.

Bishop Brings Data Expertise to AHEC

Diane Bishop joined the Upstate AHEC team in October, 2004 as the Data Management Specialist. In this position, Diane manages all program and participant data and works with program coordinators to produce reports essential to the management and tracking of services. Diane received her Medical Secretary Diploma from Greenville Technical College. She has held administrative positions at Palmetto Health Baptist Easley, Greenville Hospital System and Bon Secours St. Francis Health System. Upstate AHEC proudly welcomes Diane to the staff. Contact Diane Bishop at (864) 349-1160 or dbishop@upstateahec.org.



Bullard, Organizational Asset

Shannon Bullard joined the Upstate AHEC staff in November 2004 as an Administrative Assistant. Shannon assists the staff by directing inquires, supporting office functions, and preparing project materials. She has worked in the health care industry in both the clinical field as a Chiropractic Assistant and Certified Nursing Assistant, and the administrative field in office support and billing. The Upstate AHEC staff benefits from Shannon's administrative and organizational skills. Contact Shannon Bullard at (864) 349-1160 or sbullard@upstateahec.org.



Upcoming SC AHEC Events

Spring 2005

2005 Update for Pharmacy Technicians

Cosponsored by: Medical University of South Carolina

Greenwood, SC - March 12 & 13, 2005

Contact Diane Bishop at 864-349-1179 or dbishop@upstateahec.org

Charleston, SC - April 16, 2005

Contact Landis Williams at 803-943-5052 or williamsl@lcahec.com

Conway, SC - May 7, 2005

Contact Kay Lambert at 843-777-5352 or klambert@mcleodhealth.org

Florence, SC - May 21, 2005

Contact Kay Lambert at 843-777-5352 or klambert@mcleodhealth.org

April 6, 2005

2nd Annual Workshop for Nurse Aide Training Coordinators & Instructors,
Columbia Conference Center, 169 Laurelhurst Avenue, Columbia, SC

Sponsored by: Aiken Technical College; Carolina Medical Review; Hartman Publishing, Promissor, Inc.; SC AHEC; South Carolina Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging; South Carolina Department of Education; South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); South Carolina Health Care Association; Office for the Study of Aging, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina

Goal: The Mission of this workshop is to bring together nurse aide training coordinators and instructors for the purpose of learning, hearing ideas, networking and assuring consistency of excellence in nurse aide training programs. This workshop is designed for nurse aide training coordinators and instructors for long term care settings. Training programs may send multiple participants.

For more information: Contact Janet Dinkins at (803) 593-9954 ext. 1348 or visit www.scahec.net for a registration brochure.

April 7, 2005

Bioethics, Genetics & the Human Genome Project: Racial/Ethnic Minority Community & Researcher Perspectives, The University Center of Greenville, 225 South Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, SC

Sponsored by: EXPORT Center; A Clemson University & Voorhees College Partnership; Clemson University, College of Health, Education, & Human Development; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. National Education Foundation; Upstate AHEC; Anderson, Oconee Minority Health Coalition; Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics; Clemson University Rutland Center for Ethics, Genomics Institute, & Biotechnology Institute; and Greenwood Genetic Center

Goal: The goal of this conference is to enhance knowledge of bioethics, genetics and the human genome project especially as it relates to racial/ethnic rural minority populations, researchers, and students.

For more information: Contact Bennie Pettit at 864-349-1162 or bpettit@upstateahec.org

April 29, 2005

South Carolina Nursing Excellence: Aspiring to Magnetism - 3rd Annual South Carolina Magnet Conference, Embassy Suites Hotel, 200 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, SC 29210

Sponsored by: SC AHEC; South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA); South Carolina Organization of Nurse Executives (SCONE); Medical University of South Carolina, Medical Center; Center for Nursing Leadership, College of Nursing, USC; South Carolina Board of Nursing; SC Magnet Conference Planning Committee

Overview: This conference will focus on developing research and leadership among the nursing population, promoting education of staff and linking to nursing programs, and evidence-based practice.

Registration: The fee for the conference is \$75.00.

For more information: Call 843-792-4431 or visit www.scahec.net for a registration brochure.



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Phone: 843.792.4431
Fax: 843.792.4430

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THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS
May 1, 2005!

SOUTH CAROLINA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
Excellence in Health Care Through Education